



2017 Charles County Holiday Trail

December 2-3

Charles County Holiday Trail Keeps Season's Traditions Alive

From Saturday, December 2 through Sunday, December 3, 2017, the fifth annual Charles County Holiday Trail will offer locals and visitors alike an opportunity to get into the holiday spirit while visiting county landmarks. Admission dates and times vary with location. All are **free**, though donations are greatly appreciated. For more information and a detailed schedule, visit: www.charlescountyholidaytrail.org.

The following are the featured locations:

Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park (11000 Crain Highway, Newburg)

December 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Museum is a place of history and honor. It displays the lives of individuals who contributed to America's freedom. Each gallery is filled with memorabilia dedicated to a specific conflict. Visit with Civil War Mr. and Mrs. Santa, and see a soldier displayed with his Charlie Brown Christmas Tree and "Dear John" letter. Light refreshments. Visit: www.mdvets.cc.

St. Thomas Manor/St. Ignatius Catholic Church (8855 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco)

December 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; December 3, noon to 4 p.m.

Open to visitors for the holidays, St. Ignatius Parish is the oldest continuously serving Catholic parish in the United States. Founded in 1641, the current church was erected in 1798 but incorporated the old brick chapel built over 300 years ago. Tours of the Manor home and church. Visit: www.chapelpoint.org

Port Tobacco Historic Village (8430 Commerce Street, Port Tobacco)

December 1, 2 and 3, noon to 4 p.m.

See one of Maryland's earliest settlements as it stands today. With origins that date to 1634, Port Tobacco Historic Village was once Maryland's second largest seaport. Come and tour the Port Tobacco Courthouse and Burch House. Fresh greens for sale by Charles County Garden Club. Visit: www.restoreporttobacco.wordpress.com and www.charlescountymd.gov.

Stagg Hall (8450 Commerce Street, Port Tobacco)

December 2 and 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last tour at 3:30 p.m.)

Step into a colonial holiday at historic Stagg Hall. Bring your camera and have holiday photos taken in our Merchant Taproom and offering several seasonal crafts to decorate your home. Email: historicdistrict@charlescountymd.gov; website: www.charlescountymd.gov/tourism.

Port Tobacco One-Room School House (7215 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco)

December 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Constructed in 1876, the school was used to educate students for 77 years. It is now operating as a living museum. Visitors are invited to stop by for some holiday cheer and see what school was like in years past. **FREE S'mores!** Visit: www.charlescountyholidaytrail.com.

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Project paid for in part by the Charles County Commissioners



Thomas Stone National Historic Site (6655 Rose Hill Road, Port Tobacco)

December 2, 4 to 7 p.m. candlelight tour

Enjoy a candlelight tour through the restored Haberventure conducted by costumed staff who will discuss the life of the Stone family during the midst of the Revolution. While the site will be open for regular tours during the day, the special activities will occur from 4 to 7 p.m. Visit: www.nps.gov/thst.

Mount Carmel Monastery (5678 Mount Carmel Road, La Plata)

December 2 and 3, 10 a.m. to 3 pm.

Come tour the site of the first Carmelite monastery, and shop in the fully stocked gift shop for the perfect holiday gift. Visit: www.restorersmtcarmelmd.org

Christ Church Port Tobacco Parish (110 Charles Street, La Plata)

December 3, 11 a.m. church worship service, noon refreshments, 1 to 5 p.m. tours and Christmas Market.

Get in the Christmas spirit at one of the area's most interesting churches. The Parish was one of 30 the Church of England established in 1692 by the Provincial Assembly. Originally built in Port Tobacco, the church was dismantled and moved to La Plata by oxcart in 1904.

Friendship House (8730 Mitchell Road, La Plata)

December 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; December 3, noon to 4 p.m.

The campus of the College of Southern Maryland is the site of Friendship House. Enjoy holiday refreshments while touring one of Maryland's earliest surviving Tidewater dwellings and the cellar museum. Visit: www.charlescountyhistorical.org

Smallwood Retreat House (2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury)

December 3, 1 to 6 p.m.

Activities will include daylight and candlelight tours, 18th-century cooking demonstrations, candle dipping, and relaxing around the campfire enjoying hot cider, cookies, and good company. Rain, snow, or shine! Call 301-743-7613 for information.

Mattawoman Creek Art Center (2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury)

December 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For handmade and one-of-a kind gifts, this is an important stop to make. Located on the grounds of Smallwood State Park, the art center offers items you will not find anywhere else. Visit: www.mattawomanart.org

Mount Aventine, Chapman State Park (3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head)

December 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mount Aventine, the Antebellum mansion located in Chapman State Park, will be decorated throughout in traditional greenery. Live music performances each day from 2 to 3 p.m. Traditional Christmas craft workshops for kids and adults will begin at 1 p.m. with costumed docents. Seasonal refreshments, gift shop, baked goods, and greenery for sale. Check the website for program updates at: www.friendsofchapmansp.org.

Maxwell Hall (17388 Teagues Point Road, Hughesville)

December 2 and 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club invite you to come see this historic house decked out with spectacular Colonial holiday decorations. Enjoy outdoor displays, live entertainment, refreshments, holiday greens demonstrations, and children's crafts. Visit: www.facebook.com/maxwellhallmd

Serenity Farm (6932 Serenity Farm Road, Benedict)

December 3, 1 to 4 p.m.

Weather permitting, gather at Harvest House (farm store) and create a natural decoration for one of 23 graves of enslaved African-Americans buried in the historic burial ground (1790-1810). Walking tours to the burial ground take place at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. And don't forget to visit the following weekend. Visit: www.serenityfarminc.com

Kris Kringle Christmas Market and the Charles County Fair (8440 Fairground Road, La Plata)

December 8, 9, and 10. Friday, 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come see the Charles County Fairgrounds transformed into a winter wonderland of lights, greens, music, and shopping. Admission \$1 or one non-perishable food item to benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Visit: www.charlescountyfair.com/kriskringle

